

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 295656

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR THE AMBASSADOR (EYES ONLY)

EMO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GE

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM HELMUT SCHMIDT

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE
PRESIDENT RECEIVED FROM HELMUT SCHMIDT ON DEC. 9, 1977.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. MR. PRESIDENT, DEAR JIMMY,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 23 NOVEMBER 1977. I TOO
BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE ALLIES TO DISCUSS
CURRENT SECURITY ISSUES. I AM GLAD THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO
CONSULT WITH US AND OUR BRITISH AND FRENCH FRIENDS ON SALT
AND RELATED QUESTIONS. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE DISCUSSION
BETWEEN THE FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS TODAY, THE EVE OF THE
NATO CONFERENCE, CAN BE FOLLOWED UP WITH A MEETING OF HIGH-
RANKING OFFICIALS, POSSIBLY BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS BREAK.

WE AGREE WITH THE OBJECTIVE PURSUED IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS
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OF ESTABLISHING THE NUCLEAR STRATEGIC PARITY. OF SPECIAL
INTEREST TO US, OF COURSE, IS THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSED
PROTOCOL WILL CONTAIN PROVISIONAL AGREEMENTS ON MEDIUM-
RANGE WEAPONS SYSTEMS. THIS GIVES RISE TO ASPECTS, ALSO
WITH REGARD TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH ARE ESPECIALLY
RELEVANT TO THE EUROPEAN ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES AS
WELL. WE HAVE THEREFORE BEEN HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE

FACT THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS FROM THE VERY OUTSET ATTACHED

CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO KEEPING THE ALLIES COMPREHENSIVELY INFORMED, AND IT IS PLEASING TO NOTE OUR AGREEMENT OF THE NEED, IN VIEW OF THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS, TO HOLD IN-DEPTH CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS OF RELEVANCE TO US. AS REGARDS CURRENT PROBLEMS, APART FROM THE NEED TO KEEP OPEN THE MEDIUM-RANGE OPTIONS FOR THE CRUISE MISSILES, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO A SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN A WAY WHICH WILL GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO EUROPEAN AND ALLIED INTERESTS. I HAVE ALSO INFORMED PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN OF THESE DELIBERATIONS.

I AM ALSO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEUTRON WEAPONS WHICH WE SHALL STUDY WITH GREAT CARE. I SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT THIS STUDY MUST ALSO EMBRACE THE QUESTION AS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE OF NEUTRON WEAPONS AS A NEGOTIATING FACTOR CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR WITHIN THE SCOPE OF OUR ARMS CONTROL POLICY. THIS IS, OF COURSE, ASSUMING THAT THE OPTIONS WITH REGARD TO NEUTRON WEAPONS ARE KEPT CREDIBLY OPEN.

I HAVE JUST LEARNT WITH SATISFACTION OF SECRETARY VANCE'S
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IMPRESSIVE STATEMENT AT THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING OF
8 DECEMBER 1977 CONCERNING THE ALLIANCE AND SALT.

YOU CAN BE SURE THAT WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE HIS WORDS
WHICH LAY EMPHASIS ON CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG THE ALLIES.
END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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